Carrie, C R

Sept 1914 - Mar 1915

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QUEEN'S COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

Sept 18/14.

My dear Mr. President:

I was so glad to hear from friends in Toronto that Mrs Falconer and yourself had finally arrived safely on Canadian soil. Knowing as I did that both of you were on the Continent when the European trouble broke out, I was rather anxious for a time as to your safety. I hope you suffered no great inconvenience

III

It is probable that only about one-half, if that number, will come up to Oxford when Term opens. most of the other men have Commissions in the Army and are now at the front. I had quite a long conversation with Pro provost Armstrong of Queen's on the matter. He said the University was advising men who were not previously members of the Officers Training Corps, to come up as usual and join the Corps to train for Commissions in case

I am now rather glad that I chose Oxford for my studies rather than Germany. Some of my Oxford friends, in Germany for the summer, are now prisoners of War in Berlin. I believe. Whitelaw, Varsity 1910, is also a prisoner there, tho' I am not sure. Prof. Cosgrave of Trinity was also studying in Berlin when the war broke out.

I had a very agreeable Term at Oxford. My tutor is the Rev. B. H. Streeter who, as he says himself, is accounted "mildly heretical." I had some very interesting hours with him.

the Army should need them. That I have decided to do. Of course no one here dares to predict the length or course of the War so that at present one does not know whether one's services will be required or not. However I think it only right to acquaint you with the facts. In case a call is made I shall consider it my duty to do my part.

Beyond this, I take it, no further definite action need be taken with regard to my relation to the Board of Directors

QUEEN'S COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

at the present. Should circumstances later demand it, I can then tender my resignation to the Board. If however you think it necessary, to secure the organisation of the Association, that some definite step be taken in the near future, you may consider my resignation in your hands. Personally I do not at present think such a step necessary.

is a prisoner in Berlin. I 80 from
have no organist. Mr.
Monné, the Bursar, kindly
offered to come over (on one
occasion) and play some
hymns for us on Sundays
if we were ever in difficulty
regarding an organist.

I hope to have the pleasure
of hearing from you, sir, in
the near future.

Yours faithfully
E R Lavie.

VI

I hope it ~~shall~~ will be unnecessary that the contents of this letter go beyond the knowledge of the Board. It is not advisable to put one's friends and relatives in a state of nervous ~~[illegible]~~ anxiety over one's whereabouts ~~or~~ intentions. It is time to let them know, when action is necessary.

I hear from Mr. Ferris ~~that~~ the sermon list is in very fine shape and that his organisation is quite prepared for the Ferris work. I hear that Mr. MacMillan

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Y.M.C.A.

WITH THE BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Y.M.C.A.

From ..... No. .....

..... Section ..... Company ..... Battalion ..... Regt.

THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
c/o GENERAL POST OFFICE.
LONDON

75 Boul^d de Strasburg
Le Havre, France.
January 4, 1915.

Dear Mr. President:

You will doubtless be surprised to hear from me from this part of the World. I came over here just before the close of the Xmas Term with Mr. Stewart Bennet, Keble College - ~~one~~ graduate of S.P.S. Since then Mr. K.G. Allan has come. Last week we were joined by Mr. Hutcheson, a graduate of Victoria who has been studying at Edinburgh. All the other men as far as I know, engaged in the work here are college men from the British Isles. We from are attempting to uphold our University ideals to the best of our ability.

The Association commenced work in France about November 25. It is established in the Camps at Rouen, Boulogne and Le Havre; and is hoping in the Spring to be allowed to offer its services to the Troops further up near the firing line. I am at present in charge of its work in Camp No I, Le Havre. We are building by the voluntary

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(2) LONDON

labor of the Troops themselves, a Camp Hut 100 ft by 30 ft for our work. The Privates ~~the~~ appreciate our institution immensely while the officers from Brigadier Gen Henderson downwards, with a few exceptions render us every assistance. It is an extreme pleasure to be of even small service on such a momentous occasion as this: while the unpleasantness consequent upon abnormal climatic conditions is more than compensated for by the appreciation shown by every one for the small service we are able to render.

We Canadians have almost definitely decided to remain here in France and see it out, rather than to return to College. For me it means dropping the Officers Training Corps: but the officer training us as well as my tutor, Rev. B H. Streeter both advised me that if I were given a decent opportunity here I could be of more service in this capacity than as a commissioned officer. That, along with the insistent protest of my people at home, has almost decided the matter for me.

I can not help but acquaint you with the ~~source of~~ admiration which we Canadians here have for the

Y.M.C.A. WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. Y.M.C.A.

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stand you have taken with regard to the German Professors. The jingo patriotism of Imperialistic Toronto had to have a safety valve "blow off" to relieve its feelings. The situation at the University happened into public notice just as the "blow off" was due. Had it not come along, something else would have received all the impetus of its pent-up force. We hope, sir, you have stuck to your guns and that by the time you receive this, the matter will have been settled quite in your favor.

In applying to Maj.-Gen. Hughes for a chaplaincy with the 2nd Canadian Contingent I took the privilege of mentioning your name. I hope it has caused you no inconvenience.

As far as I can see just now, the time of my return to Toronto will be largely determined by the length of the War. I am sure however if I am not able to be in my position next September Mr. Ferris will be quite willing to and is quite capable of carrying on the work of the Association with great credit to it and to himself.

Kindest regards to Mrs Falconer.

Yours very Sincerely C R Clair.

C. R. Carrie, Esq., January 20th, 1915

Y.M.C.A., British Expeditionary Force, Le Havre, France.

Dear Mr. Carrie:

I was very glad to get your letter and to hear that you have gone across to France. It seems to me that you have done the right thing. There must be a great deal to be attended to in the various British camps in French territory. I should think that you can do much to make the time pass merrily and help our men who ought to be cheered on to the utmost. I am glad to know that the officers, from the Brigadier-General downwards, are so well disposed, and help you out so much. I should imagine that this might be one of the trying parts of the whole campaign, because of the wretched weather and the waiting. We all hope that by spring there will be a forward movement.

You will doubtless have heard from here what is being done. There are over 1800 men enrolled and at work drilling. They are to be reviewed by the Duke on Friday, and from all accounts I believe they will make an excellent showing. Many of them will go to the front next spring. We have also many in the second Contingent. To our surprise the attendance at the University this year is nearly the same as last year, the chief falling off being in Applied Science, but this is to be expected in times of depression.

The attendance at the Sunday morning services this year is much larger than last, and the course, I think is equally good. Dr. Mott comes for Sunday, and the Y.M.C.A. has arranged for special meetings on the Monday and Tuesday, which doubtless will be largely attended.

When I was in Goderich a fortnight ago I had the pleasure of meeting your mother. There were two large gatherings. At night I spoke in the City Hall to a crowded meeting, and had the chance of meeting quite a number of Goderich people. In summer it must be a beautiful place.

I should be glad to hear from you from time to time. I must apologise for not having answered your first letter. It has been lying here for a long time speaking to me reproachfully. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

75, Boul^d de Strasbourg
Le Havre, France
March 15, 1915.

Dear Mr. President:

I have not yet heard from you whether any change is considered necessary in the arrangement previously agreed to regarding my Secretaryship at Toronto.

In view of the fact that the appointments in the Association have been made in the past in March for the ensuing year, I write to advise you that I assume the original arrangement will continue in force. Acting

this assumption I anticipate returning to take up my duties at Varsity this coming September. Meanwhile I consider it my duty to remain here with the Y.M.C.A. with the Br. Expeditionary Force.

All the Canadians whom I mentioned in my last letter are still at their work in France and I believe are giving a very good account of themselves. Mr Allan has gone on to Dieppe to work amongst the Canadians there."

The weather in France is gradually clearing so that campaigning ~~will~~ in future will not be as strenuous as it has been. For that we are extremely grateful.

Yours in haste

C H Clark

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March 29th, 1915

C. R. Carrie, Esq., M.A.,

75 Boulevard de Strasbourg,

LeHavre, France.

Dear Mr. Carrie:

You will by this time have got my letter stating that Mr. Ferris was reappointed for next year. I am sorry to find that this conflicts with your plans, but the Committee judged from your letter to me that you would in all probability not be able to return. I am afraid that your not coming back till September would make quite a difficulty in the running of the work for the summer. We could barely keep Mr. Ferris under these conditions, and as I wrote to you, we are cutting down the expenses during the summer months. Mr. Ferris has voluntarily accepted a lower salary for the winter owing to the drop in finances. I do not see how it would be possible for us to pay a salary such as we had hoped to give you next winter. The larger committee of the United Y.M.C.A. have cut down our budget , and they already owe us a good deal, I think quite $2000. We have been in difficulties over the matter and all around retrenchments have been necessary, so that if you return next winter I am afraid it would have to be on considerably lower salary. I regret very much the circumstances, but they have arisen both in your case and in our own without our being able to control conditions. Would it not be better for you to remain for next winter with the forces at the front ? I should be glad to hear your decision as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. R. Carrie, March 17th, 1915

Y.M.C.A., British Expeditionary Force,

Care General P.O., London, England.

Dear Mr. Carrie:

The Students' Committee of the Y.M.C.A. have decided to ask Mr. Ferris to act again next year as Secretary. This, Mr. Ferris has agreed to do. As you are probably aware he is now married, and it is necessary for him to make arrangements beforehand upon which he can rely. In view of your letter and the probability that your services will be required with the army until the end of the war the appointment of Mr. Ferris will have to be made definitely. I feel that you should take this into account, because although from what you have said to me I realise that there is not any likelihood of your being able to be back, there should be no misunderstanding on the matter, and it would be unfair to Mr. Ferris to throw him out of a position in the circumstances. I believe of course that this will appeal to you as the right thing to be done.

We have rather serious financial difficulties this year. Mr. Ferris has voluntarily accepted quite a reduction in his salary. We have done with a secretary less, and for the summer there will probably be no assistant appointed. I hope, however, that things may look up by and by.

We are always interested in getting word from those at the front. I hear from our Doctors that there is a great deal of sadness in the life at the Hospitals, and doubtless you see a good deal of it.

I shall always be glad to hear from you.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.